



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

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## USDA TO MEASURE DRY HAY & OTHER CROP INTENTIONS

Although cold weather and snow are here, it's the time of year farmers begin planning for the upcoming crop season. What crops and how many acres will be planted? How much hay will be cut in 2003, and how will this compare with 2002? These are just a few of many decisions farmers will be making as spring approaches.

The New England Agricultural Statistics Service, a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, is responsible for publishing statistics about crop intentions across New England. These figures are based on information gathered from the national March Agricultural Survey. Results from this survey allow producers to make sound planting decisions based on changes in agricultural markets and planting intentions reported in this survey.

In New England, the survey measures acreage expected to be cut for dry hay, and area planted to field corn, barley, and oats. As of December 1, 2002, there were 629,000 tons of dry hay in storage across New England; 2.8 percent less than the previous year. As these stocks are consumed, it becomes important for farmers to know the intentions for dry hay in 2003; then farmers can plan for the livestock feed situation later in the year.

Approximately 1,700 New England farmers have been selected to take part in this nationwide effort to measure farmers' planting intentions for 2003. "The cooperation of New England farmers is essential in order to ensure that agriculture in each state is measured accurately," said Aubrey Davis, Director of the New England Agricultural Statistics Service.

The producers selected to participate will be mailed a letter requesting their assistance with this project. Interviewers will conduct personal or telephone interviews between February 28 and March 14, 2003. All questionnaires and information about individual farms will be held in strict confidence. The data are only used in combination with reports from other producers to prepare official crop statistics.

National survey results will be available in the **Prospective Plantings** report from Washington, D.C. at 8:30 a.m. on March 31, 2003. All reports are available on the Internet within minutes of the scheduled release time. New England statistics based on this survey will be reprinted in the April issue of the **monthly Ag Review**. This monthly New England newsletter is available on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/nh/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/nh/) and complimentary copies are also mailed to survey participants upon request.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Located in Concord, New Hampshire, it is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six States in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at [nass-nh@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-nh@nass.usda.gov). All national statistics and state level newsletters are available free from e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/).]

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